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ferent words in their places in the text, secondary cases and tenses are given; and, what is of hardly less value, compound and derived words are referred to their roots, which are also accompanied by translations.

If we have seemed to speak unfavorably of the "Greek Reader" of Jacobs in what precedes, we conceive that we have merely discharged a duty to Professor Felton, and to the public, in entering upon a comparison from which but one verdict could result. In an age distinguished by the multiplication of school-books beyond all precedent, one who puts forth a new one can hardly be justified, unless a decided case of inadequateness is made out against that formerly in use. And we have thought it right to say thus much in commendation of the new "Greek Reader," both because we esteem it a book of great merit, as well as calculated to supply an important demand in the literary market, and because we hold that no real service of this kind should go without its acknowledgment. When a finished scholar thus foregoes for a period the enjoyment of the most fascinating studies, to toil through the drudgery of correcting Greek proof-sheets, and writing notes which require the most painful accuracy, we think it right that those, whose school and college days are over, should know the result, and feel to whom are due some of their greatest obligations in the matter of educating their children.

2.—*Discourse on the Objects and Importance of the National Institution for the Promotion of Science, established at Washington, 1840, delivered at the First Anniversary.*
By JOEL R. POINSETT, Secretary of War, and Senior Director of the Institution. Washington : P. Force, Printer. 1841. 8vo. pp. 52.

MR. POINSETT's Discourse comprises a plain and sensible statement of the objects of the new institution at Washington, and a consideration of their practicability and importance. He manifests an intimate acquaintance with the theory and present condition of all the leading branches of science, and, in a style remarkable for chasteness, simplicity, and force, he advocates the methodical cultivation of them by a society, which, established at the seat of government, and fostered by the federal authorities, shall have good claim to be considered as a national institution. Like many other observers of the condition of

this country, and the nature of its government, he has a deep sense of the advantages, which would accrue to scientific research and literary effort, if we possessed a metropolis, which should perform the same office for us, that is rendered by the great capitals of Europe to their respective states, by concentrating the action of individuals, and affording combined means and facilities for the advancement of learning. Mr. Poinsett argues further, in support of the feasibility and importance of the Society's design, that some branches of knowledge cannot be cultivated and rendered extensively useful without aid from the government. If our navigators are ever to be freed from their present dependence on European science, it can only be by the establishment of an observatory, which shall belong to the nation, and by the calculation of *Ephemerides*, which shall be published under the sanction of the national executive. In respect to geography, also, though the individual states may construct maps of their own territories, yet without a common centre, whence uniform plans and instructions may be issued, these maps will be laid down on different projections, and executed with various degrees of accuracy, so that the aggregate of them will be far from presenting a correct hydrographical view of the country.

The objects of the founders of the National Institution are deserving of all praise, but we fear that the attainment of them will be found beyond the means of the society itself, and that the patronage of government will prove a slender resource. A city cannot be rendered the scientific and literary metropolis of a whole nation, by merely constituting it the seat of political government. The situation of Washington and the character of its population are most unfavorable to the calm pursuits of science. It is a sort of vast hotel, which everybody visits, but where nobody is at home. Eminent men are called thither every year, from all parts of the Union, but their errand is a political one, and if they have any predilection for scientific pursuits, it must be merged for the time in the dust and turmoil of their public career. Nor is the case far different with those functionaries, whose stay at the capital is determined by their connexion with the executive departments. These, also, are birds of passage, though their periods of migration, instead of being limited to a year, may extend through a Presidential term. Mr. Poinsett himself is an eminent instance to prove that an ardent love of science is not incompatible with the faithful discharge of high official duties. But we find even him expressing regret, that the calls of the Institution upon him require "more leisure than I now enjoy."

We hazard these remarks, because, from the title which the

Society has assumed, and from several passages in the Address before us, we suppose the hope exists, that the income of Mr. Smithson's bequest may be applied by Congress to the support of the "National Institution." Aided by this fund, and by their connexion with the general government, the directors expect that their association may in time assume a character and functions similar to those of the French Institute. But we fear the difficulties already hinted at are more than sufficient to defeat such an ambitious plan. Paris is in every sense, not merely the political capital, but the very heart of France. No city in this country can ever attain a corresponding station and influence, and Washington is, perhaps, the least likely of all to acquire such preëminence. Besides, the fund in question, if, indeed, it is now in existence, is altogether too small for such a magnificent scheme; and the parsimony of Congress in relation to such objects will not justify the expectation of further aid, even if there were no constitutional difficulties in the way. No proposal for the employment of this fund, as it seems to us, offers results of such certain utility, as the one sanctioned by the opinion of Mr. Adams. We ardently hope, that the remaining years of this venerable statesman's career may be gladdened by the accomplishment of the object, which he has so long had in view, the establishment of a National Observatory.

3.—*Outline of a System of Legislation, for securing Protection to the Aboriginal Inhabitants of all Countries colonized by Great Britain. Drawn up at the Request of the Committee of "The Aborigines Protection Society," for the purpose of being laid before the Government.* By STANDISH MOTTE, Esq., a Member of the Committee. London: John Murray. 1840. 8vo. pp. 32.

ENGLISH philanthropy has been accused at times, and not without some reason, of pursuing comprehensive, far-reaching, but somewhat indefinite plans for the general improvement of mankind in all quarters of the globe, while more direct and efficient schemes of practical benevolence at home were allowed to languish from the want of patronage. The Bible Society has expended millions in translating and circulating the Scriptures among distant tribes and nations, while a large portion of England's own manufacturing population is desti-